

Memo

To: Board of Managers
From: Michael Younes, Director of Municipal Operations *MY*
CC: Shana Davis-Cook, Village Manager
Date: 12/05/11
Re: Update on Capital and Infrastructure Upgrade Projects

Below please find an update on the various capital and infrastructure upgrade projects currently in-process and in the planning stage:

Connecticut Avenue (MD 185) Repaving:

- The State Highway Administration's (SHA) District 3 office has informed the Village that Connecticut Avenue between the District Line and Taylor Street (where the 4-H Center is located) will be scheduled for repaving this upcoming summer 2012.
- All roadway grinding and resurfacing operations will be conducted overnight during the 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. time period. SHA did acknowledge that Brookville Road was repaved during the day and the potential disruption however, stated that due to high traffic volumes grinding and repaving the roadway during the day is not possible.
- As part of this project the all of the existing storm drains and associated piping in the Village's portion of Connecticut Avenue will be cleaned out and seven (7) of which will be rebuilt.
- SHA will also be installing concrete bus pads along the repaving route. In order for the concrete pads to cure properly SHA will have to close one lane of Connecticut Avenue before the repaving begins for one weekend. SHA realizes that this work is extremely disruption and further coordination and public outreach will be conducted as we move closer to the repaving date.
- In an effort to address aesthetic concerns over the appearance of the median strip along Connecticut Avenue as part of the resurfacing project SHA will be removing the dirt and weeds in the strip and replacing the area with sod. SHA has heard many concerns over this plan due to maintenance and sustainability issues going forward. SHA is currently reevaluating this plan.

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- Finally, as a requirement to repaint all cross walks along Connecticut Avenue due to the repaving I begun conversations with SHA about the possibility of installing a cross walk across Connecticut Avenue in front of the Village Hall. Past Village attempts to have a pedestrian triggered signal installed in the block have failed because pedestrian counts do not meet State standards. At a recent meeting the District Engineer in charge of reviewing such requests stated that the standards required for a cross walk were less strict and could be used as a starting point for a signal request.
- SHA is currently in the process of setting up a survey of the roadway and traffic. Results of survey should be available in the beginning of January.

PEPCO Wiring Upgrades

- In an effort to increase the reliability of the Village's power infrastructure, I have requested that PEPCO complete a survey of the Village to identify locations where the existing secondary wires (the wire that your home service wire is connected to) need upgrading.
- There are several locations throughout the Village where the existing secondary wires have not been upgraded in many years. The old style secondary wire also called "open three-wire". These "open three-wire" (2 electrical and 1 bare-ground wires) sections have a very high rate of failure during storms and high wind events due to their non-ruggedized construction. Often times the open three-wire fails when a tree branch, as small as a little twig, falls on 2 of the three wires causing a short and therefore knocking out power.
- When upgraded these "open three-wire" sections are replaced with "triplex" wire. The "triplex" wire still utilizes 2 electrically wires and a ground, however, the wires is more ruggedized to withstand weather and interaction with trees and the ground wire is coated with the same ruggedized barrier.
- PEPCO anticipates its survey work to be complete by the end of January.
- As part of PEPCO's reliability enhancement program I am hopeful that PEPCO will replace all of the Village's "open three-wire" sections.
- As the project evolves, I will provide further updates.

Street Light Upgrades

- In an effort to increase street lighting throughout the Village and as outlined in the Village's Capital Improvements Program (CIP) budget that the Village's Police Department has deemed to be "darkspots". Based on the list I have requested that PEPCO conduct an electrical needs survey of the list of proposed streetlight locations submitted that the Village.
- Last year the Village Police Department conducted a survey of all streets to identify "darkspots" in the Village's streetlight coverage. As a follow-up the survey was repeated over the past month which has identified additional dark locations.

- Based on the list that I have transmitted to PEPCO, they must conduct a wiring and electrical survey of the locations to understand what upgrades (wires, poles, transformers) if any will be needed to accommodate additional streetlight.
- Once PEPCO has completed its survey work they will provide me with a firm price for the upgrade. It is my hope to have firm pricing from PEPCO for Board review and discussion by the February 2012 Board meeting.
- I have also inquired if it would be possible to retro-fit all Village streetlights with a higher wattage. Based on my initial conversation this may be possible and would instantly provide more light on Village streets. Initial indications from PEPCO that increasing the wattage may be possible.
- Based on the approved CIP \$30,000 has been allocated for the installation of 14 new street lights.

Village-wide Sidewalk Replacements:

- Village Sidewalk replacement contractor, Capitol Hardscapes, are now replacing sidewalks on Hesketh Street and a portion of Kirkside Drive.
- The speed of construction has increased despite the increased inclement weather.
- Weather permitting the replacements should be completed by mid-January 2012.
- Overall, resident feedback on the project has been very positive and supportive.
- Once the sidewalk replacements along Hesketh Street and Kirkside Drive are completed Capitol Hardscapes will be proceeding based on the below schedule: (Primarily to avoid any conflicts with WSSC water main replacement crews.)
 - Magnolia Parkway: Mid-January 2012 – February 2012
 - Oxford Street: March 2012 – Mid-April 2012
 - Remaining Sidewalks on Connecticut Avenue: Mid-April 2012 – June 2012
- Over the past month, I have worked with Mr. Kilborn to develop a “Frequently Asked Questions” document that was included in the December *Crier* and has been uploaded to the sidewalk page on the website.
- In an effort to provide timely and accurate information regarding the progress of this multi-year project a dedicated page has been created on the Village’s website for project updates. Residents can access the page from the Village’s homepage www.chevyCHASEvillagemd.gov by clicking on the “Village-wide Sidewalk Replacements” link under the “Quick Links” section and under the “News” section.

Wisconsin Avenue Sidewalk

- In October representatives from the SHA District 3 and Headquarters held a public meeting in the Village Hall with residents of the Village and surrounding jurisdictions to discuss the preliminary sidewalk design and to receive community feedback.
- The meeting was very spirited at times with both Village residents and non-residents voiced their opinions on the sidewalk

- As expected one Village resident voiced his strong opposition to the sidewalk due to property line concerns. According to SHA documents there is sufficient right-of-way.
- SHA is in the process of conducting a follow-up boundary survey of the 142 Hesketh Street property to re-confirm property and right-of-way boundaries. It was hoped that this survey would be completed by Thanksgiving however; the property owner requested he be present for the survey. Unfortunately, the property owner has not been cooperating with SHA.
- SHA plans to conduct the survey within the next 2 weeks regardless of the property owner's cooperation.
- SHA has also been looking into whether there would be available space to weave the sidewalk between trees while staying within its current right-of-way.
- SHA is in the process of revising its plans where possible to address concerns heard during the public hearing, once completed a second public meeting will be held. Once a date for the next public meeting is scheduled and revised plans become available I will advise accordingly.
- Below is a brief summary of the my conversations with the abutting residents and anticipated property impacts:
 - 145 Grafton Street: Supportive of the sidewalk; 2-3 trees and 2 bushes would need removal, new driveway apron required
 - 142 Hesketh Street: Not Supportive due to property impacts (i.e. fence relocation); Initial SHA right-of-way documents and plan show that the fence has been installed within the State right-of-way.
 - 143 Hesketh Street: Very Supportive of the sidewalk and would use it; No property impacts.
 - 145 Hesketh Street: Very Supportive of the sidewalk and would welcome the some of the tree removals on Wisconsin Avenue which would allow their Leyland Cypress trees to grow more uniformly; No property impacts.
- If constructed the sidewalk would be fully funded by SHA.
- If all design and approvals are received in a timely fashion SHA anticipates construction on the sidewalk could begin as early as the late spring or early summer 2012.

WSSC Water Main Replacements:

- This week WSSC began work to relocate water mains on portions of Cedar Parkway and all of Oliver Street.
- During relocation operations, WSSC leaves the current or active water main in place while a new main is installed in the roadway. Once the new main is installed service is transferred from the old main.
- Below is a tentative work schedule for the relocation operations (weather permitting):
 - Saw cutting on Cedar Parkway: December 5 – December 14
 - Installation of new water main on Cedar Parkway: December 6 – 22
 - Saw cutting on Oliver Street: December 9 – December 19

- Installation of new water main on Oliver Street: December 19 – January 19, 2012
- Notice has been sent to residents in the affected areas advising them of the water relocation work.
- As we move into spring the remaining WSSC water main replacement operations will resume and notices will be sent advising residents on the remaining streets, which include:
 - West Kirke Street
 - Deadend of West Lenox Street
 - East Irving Street
 - East Kirke Street
 - Nevada Avenue and the East Melrose Street Circle
- Once all relocations and replacements are completed WSSC will restore the existing roadways and rights-of-way throughout the Village that were affected by the work.
- In the meantime, once a section of water main is replaced or relocated, WSSC will temporarily repair the trench in the roadway surface to ensure traffic can safely traverse. Throughout the winter I will be working with WSSC to ensure that any damages caused by snow plowing operations are repaired in a timely manner to ensure the affected roadways are safe for traffic.
- In an effort to provide timely and accurate information regarding the progress of this project a dedicated page has been created on the Village's website for project updates. Residents can access the page from the Village's homepage www.chevy ChaseVillageMD.gov by clicking on the "WSSC Water Main Replacement Project" link under the "News" tab.
- WSSC has informed me that the replacement of the Grafton Street water main will not be included in this current round of work. Due to the length of the Grafton Street water main and subsequent cost of the change order WSSC would be unable to modify its existing contract.
- Due to the contracting constraints, WSSC has informed me that in fiscal year 2013 they will begin the design and replacement process for both the Grafton Street and majority of the Hesketh Street water mains. As more information and timing becomes available I will provide further updates.
- The Grafton Street water main is the largest size main in the Village at 12-inches while the Hesketh Street water main is 8-inches in size, both water mains were installed 87 years ago.